

BOOK REVIEW

BONNIE J. GISEL, with images by STEPHEN J. JOSEPH. 2008. **Nature's Beloved Son: Rediscovering John Muir's Botanical Legacy.** (ISBN 978-1-59714-106-2, hbk.). Heyday Books, P.O.Box 9145, Berkeley, California, 94709 U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.heydaybooks.com, 1-510-549-3564, 1-510-549-1889 fax). \$45.00, 247 pp., 9 1/2" × 12 1/4".

Anyone who has read the published journals, newspaper articles, and other nature writings of John Muir is certainly impressed with his enthusiasm, and yes, his ecstasy as he explored and found plants, from mosses to ferns to conifers, all of which he considered friends as well as expressions of divinity. The author of this large book of texts and photographs follows Muir's ventures into wilderness with passages from the explorer's own works, drawings from his journals and letters, and specimens deposited in herbaria across the United States. In a way the book is a botanical biography of Muir—not definitive, as that would take volumes, but an excellent sampling of his botanical endeavors.

The author has updated the taxonomy of the illustrated plants and provided a useful, quick reference to them in the "Plant Gallery Citations," with a reduced picture, a herbarium legend, and a quotation from Muir on his discovery of each plant.

Photographer Stephen Joseph is also to be commended for his meticulous reproductions of herbarium specimens, enhancing color, adding contrast, and eliminating through editing software the labels and pasted strips that might otherwise distract.

The book is a worthy addition to all Muir collections and will be appreciated by botanists as well as lay readers of Muir's writings.—
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